

legislature organized into two separate branches, and the representation in the "Lower House" was made equal among the counties. In 1692 the legislature by law fixed the representation from each county at four. This equality of representation among the counties remained unaltered until the Revolutionary War.¹¹

In 1776, when the constitutional convention assembled to form a constitution for the State just emerging from colonial dependency, the system of equal representation of the counties was engrafted upon the constitution, and each county was given four delegates, and the town of Baltimore and city of Annapolis two each. In 1824 a constitutional amendment was passed by the legislature which gave Baltimore City four delegates, so as to place her representation on an equality with the counties; but it failed to be ratified by the succeeding legislature as the constitution required.¹² A similar amendment was made in 1835, but failed likewise to be ratified.¹³ By the amendment of the constitution in 1836, Baltimore City, Baltimore and Frederick counties were each given five representatives. The counties of Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot, St. Mary's, Charles, Calvert and Allegany three; and the remaining counties four each.

After 1840, representation in the House of Delegates from the several counties was to be established on a given ratio, having federal numbers as its basis; but Baltimore City was limited to equal representation with that of the largest county, and no county was to have less than three representatives.¹⁴

In the judicial department of the State a complete reorganization was urged by the reformers. The appointing of the judges by the governor, and the tenure of office for good behavior, which was found to be in practice equal to

¹¹ McMahon's History of Maryland, vol. 1, p. 465.

¹² Act 1824, ch. 115.

¹³ Act 1835, ch. 98.

¹⁴ Act 1836, ch. 197, sec. 9.